

PAUL D. PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE



LUCAS BUILDING
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

OFFICE OF THE IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

Mark Abbott
Grants Officer
U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Dear Mr. Abbott:

The integrity of Iowa's elections is the top priority for Secretary of State Paul D. Pate and his staff. These HAVA funds will be used for that purpose.

Secretary Pate has taken numerous steps to bolster election security in Iowa. That includes unprecedented partnerships with county, state, and federal entities. The Iowa Election Cybersecurity Working Group created by Secretary Pate is comprised of a variety of experts and stakeholders who are committed to protecting the integrity of the vote.

Working with the Iowa Legislature and Governor Reynolds, Secretary Pate has begun the process of replacing the state's voter registration database, I-VOTERS. Iowa's HAVA match funds will be used for cybersecurity protections related to this project.

It is vital to build a human firewall that is just as robust as a technological one. Secretary Pate is partnering with all 99 county auditors to ensure the protection of our elections on every level.

Almost 60 percent of Iowa's HAVA funds will be committed to benefiting Iowa counties. That equates to nearly \$3 million. Secretary Pate is working to implement a two-factor authentication requirement for access to I-VOTERS. The database is utilized by all 99 counties. Additionally, cybersecurity training will become mandatory for all I-VOTERS users.

Secretary Pate is partnering with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Chief Information Officer to provide robust cybersecurity protection and resources for all 99 counties. Highly-attended workshops have been conducted to inform counties about these resources. The goal is to have every county implement these protections, in addition to the ones they already utilize, in advance of the November elections.

These plans for the HAVA funds remain fluid and will be based on immediate and long-term needs. Cybersecurity is a race without a finish line and Iowa intends to lead this race. First in the nation in voting demands first in the nation security. Secretary Pate and his staff are fully committed to protecting the integrity of Iowa's elections.

Sincerely,

Molly M. Hammer
Legal Counsel

Introduction

The overarching mission of the Iowa Secretary of State is to administer lawful, fair, impartial, and secure elections. Secretary Pate wants every eligible Iowan to register to vote and participate in our elections. The greatest challenge over the past two years has been to ensure that every possible measure has been taken to protect Iowa's election infrastructure, including the state voter registration system, election night reporting system, and public-facing website, as well as the election infrastructure of all 99 Iowa counties.

The Iowa Secretary of State has been working closely with federal, state, and local partners to harden the cybersecurity and human security of Iowa's election infrastructure. Active partners include the U.S. and Iowa Departments of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Election Infrastructure – Information Sharing and Analysis Center, Center for Internet Security, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Iowa National Guard, Iowa Intelligence Fusion Center, Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer, Iowa State University Information Assurance Center/Iowa Cyber Alliance, private vendors, and county auditors and IT officials. The Secretary has appointed several of these partners to the Iowa Election Cybersecurity Working Group, whose purpose is to advise the Secretary on election cybersecurity.

Through these partnerships, the Iowa Secretary of State is working to build robust technological and human firewalls both at the state level, and in all 99 Iowa counties. The Secretary will use the \$4.8 million in federal and state HAVA funds to improve election administration, harden election security, and increase accessibility. An emphasis will be placed on providing resources and support to Iowa's 99 counties, with an effort to identify and encourage the use of best practices. The HAVA funds provide a unique challenge and opportunity to ensure the integrity of Iowa's elections for years to come.

The State of Iowa's matching funds were appropriated through the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). The money will be used to replace I-VOTERS, Iowa's statewide voter registration system. The project is currently in the research phase, but the RFP process is expected to begin in 2019. The matched funds will be expended on cybersecurity protections for the statewide voter registration system.

HAVA Program Initiatives

A. Voting Equipment

Voters in Iowa cast paper ballots that are counted with the use of ballot scanners at each precinct. The same process is utilized at county election offices for absentee ballots. In addition, each precinct is required to have a ballot-marking device that meets federal accessibility standards. Decisions on type of election equipment are made by each county, from a list of approved and tested equipment managed by the Iowa Secretary of State.

Over the past three years, the large majority of Iowa's 99 counties have taken the initiative to update their election equipment. For this reason, and because counties have statutory responsibility and authority over the purchase and management of

election equipment, these funds will not be focused on the purchase and replacement of election equipment.

B. Election Auditing

Iowa will be conducting post-election audits beginning with 2018 General Election. These funds will be utilized to educate, carry out, and improve the audit process. They will also be utilized to investigate the benefits and costs of risk limiting election audits in the State of Iowa.

C. Voter Registration

Iowa has begun the process of joining the Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. (ERIC). The benefits of participation in ERIC include more accurate and up-to-date voter lists, and a regular process to identify and encourage eligible, but unregistered, citizens to register to vote. These funds will be utilized for membership dues, programming costs related to ERIC, and required mailings associated with membership in the ERIC program.

D. Cybersecurity

HAVA funds will be used for a combination of statewide and county level measures. On a statewide level, the funds will be utilized for firewall upgrades, increased security for I-VOTERS, the statewide registration database, and to add additional staff members to better serve and assist counties as they seek to enhance their security measures.

On a county level, the funds will be used to provide more secure access to I-VOTERS through implementation and utilization of two-factor authentication. The funds will also be used to explore improvements to technology and security equipment available to Iowa's counties.

The HAVA funds will allow the Iowa Secretary of State's Office to continue and expand upon educational and training opportunities available to County Auditors, their staff, and County IT professionals. Educational programming will include: The National Election Security Summit in St. Louis, yearly Cybersecurity summits with County Auditors and IT staff, Cyber Incident Tabletop Exercises, and County Incident Planning.

E. Communication

Communication efforts include improvements to the Elections portion of the Iowa Secretary of State's website to provide for added security, functionality and accessibility. Additional funds will be used to encourage voter participation through voter education and to build the public's confidence in the integrity of Iowa's elections.

F. Accessibility

HAVA funds will be used, along with funds provided by Disability Rights Iowa, to provide Curbside Voting Signs to counties for use in front of precincts. Counties will also have the opportunity to apply for ADA compliance grants for use at polling sites. Additional funds will be used for outreach to the disability community, including organizations

that provide services to injured or disabled veterans, to help encourage registration and participation.

G. Election Administration

Funds will be used to continue and enhance training for County Auditors and their staff, Precinct Election Officials and the Secretary of State's staff. Funds going towards election administration will also be used to increase the efficiency, functionality and security of our Election Night Reporting Service.

Activities to Occur Before or During the 2018 General Election Cycle:

- Partnership with DHS on the "Last Mile Project," to provide security posters for each of Iowa's 99 counties
- DHS assessments, including Risk and Vulnerability, Cyber Resilience Review, External Dependency Management, Infrastructure Survey, and Phishing Campaign
- Joined DHS Information Network
- Perform weekly vulnerability scan
- Upgrades to firewalls protecting internal network
- Joined the Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. (ERIC) and will be sending out an Unregistered But Eligible (UBE) mailing by October 1, 2018
- Two-factor authentication for I-VOTERS users
- Develop and implement county level incident response plans
- 2 table tops session were held in partnership with DHS for County Auditors, elections staff and county IT professionals
- Create and distribute Curbside Voting Signs to counties for use at polling locations
- Requiring "Securing the Human," an online cybersecurity training program, to county level staff in partnership with the Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)
- Cybersecurity training opportunities for Secretary of State staff, County Auditors, elections staff, and county IT professionals through conferences at NASED, The Election Center, and The National Election Security Summit
- The Iowa Secretary of State's Office hosted two Cybersecurity Workshops for County Auditors, elections staff and county IT professionals to promote free services offered by the OCIO, DHS, and other state and federal partners
- Post-election audits will be conducted following the General Election
- Upgrades to Election Night Reporting system, including increased cybersecurity protections such as two-factor authentication
- Hiring an Information Security Officer and Cyber Navigator
- Partnering with OCIO to offer all interested counties malware protection and an intrusion detection system
- Development of training tools for County Auditors, elections staff and precinct election officials
- Development of communications aimed at reassuring the public confidence in the integrity and security of Iowa's elections
- Development of communications aimed at educating and encouraging voters with disabilities to vote, including veterans with disabilities
- Creation of a Cyber Working Group with local, state and federal partners

2018 HAVA ELECTION SECURITY GRANT

Budget Information

CFDA # 90.404

Non-Construction Program

Name of Organization: Iowa Secretary of State

Budget Period Start: 3/23/18 **SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY**

(Consolidated Budget for total project term--

Budget Period End: FY 2023

FEDERAL & NON-FEDERAL FUNDS (Match)

up to 5 years as defined by grantee)

PROGRAM CATEGORIES

| BUDGET CATEGORIES | (a) Voting Equipment | (b) Election Auditing | (c) Voter Registration Systems | (d) Cyber Security | (e) Communications | (f) Accessibility | (g) Election Administration | TOTALS | % Fed Total |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. PERSONNEL (including fringe) | | | | \$ 800,000.00 | \$ 375,000.00 | | | \$ 1,175,000.00 | 25% |
| 2. EQUIPMENT | | | | \$ 525,000.00 | | \$ 75,000.00 | | \$ 600,000.00 | 13% |
| 3. SUBGRANTS- to local voting jurisdictions | | | | | | \$ 200,000.00 | | \$ 200,000.00 | 4% |
| 4. TRAINING | | \$ 50,000.00 | | \$ 384,000.00 | | | \$ 149,084.00 | \$ 583,084.00 | 13% |
| 5. ALL OTHER COSTS | | \$ 150,000.00 | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ 600,000.00 | \$ 675,000.00 | \$ 125,000.00 | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ 2,050,000.00 | 44% |
| 6. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (1-6) | \$ - | \$ 200,000.00 | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ 2,309,000.00 | \$ 1,050,000.00 | \$ 400,000.00 | \$ 399,084.00 | \$ 4,608,084.00 | |
| 7. INDIRECT COSTS (if applied) | | | | | | | | \$ - | 0% |
| 8. Total Federal Budget | \$ - | \$ 200,000.00 | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ 2,309,000.00 | \$ 1,050,000.00 | \$ 400,000.00 | \$ 399,084.00 | \$ 4,608,084.00 | |
| 11. Non-Federal Match | | | \$ 230,404.00 | | | | | \$ 230,404.00 | |
| 12. Total Program Budget | \$ - | \$ 200,000.00 | \$ 480,404.00 | \$ 2,309,000.00 | \$ 1,050,000.00 | \$ 400,000.00 | \$ 399,084.00 | \$ 4,838,488.00 | |
| 13. Percentage By Category | 0% | 4% | 5% | 50% | 23% | 9% | 9% | | |

Proposed State Match 5.0%

A. Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government or some other non-federal entity?

If yes, please provide the following information:

B. Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (mm/dd/yyyy-mm/dd/yyyy):

C. Approving Federal agency:

D. If other than Federal agency, please specify:

E. The Indirect Cost Rate is: